

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Harten House Inventory Number: CT-1010
Address: 123 Williams Street City: Solomons Zip Code: 20688
County: Calvert USGS Topographic Map: Solomons Island
Owner: University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 69 Tax Map Number: 46A Tax Account ID Number: 01-011901
Project: _____ Agency: _____
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The Harten House (CT-1010) is located near the southern tip of Solomons Island, on a small lot between Williams and Memorial Street. The dwelling faces roughly north, onto the quadrangle of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CT-1005).

The Harten House is a one-story, gable-front, frame dwelling. It is three bays long with a three-bay façade composed of a central doorway with flanking windows. Walls are sheathed with plain weatherboards. The roof has slightly overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. A corbelled stove chimney projects from the roof's south side. The house sits on a low poured concrete foundation with partial basement that, while early, may not be original. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash types. The attic is illuminated by a lancet window retrofitted with louvers. The front door features a large

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: <u>Not individually eligible; no potential for district in this area</u>	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>7/21/04</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>7/28/04</u> Date

200401758

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
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Continuation Sheet No. 1

CT-1010

(replacement) pane of glass over 3 horizontal panels. Secondary entrances are similar but feature four lights over three horizontal panes. Four, square, posts support the hipped-roof front porch. A shed roof addition extends from the rear (south) side. The addition features German siding and fixed, 6-light sash windows.

The building's interior features an open plan with four principal rooms, exclusive of bath and rear addition. Most walls are finished with early plasterboard and a modern acoustic block ceiling suspends from the original surface. Door and window surrounds are plain with components assembled with butt joints. Doors are historic but not original. According to tradition they were taken from the Sunset Inn (1919-1991). This claim is supported by the presence of room numbers on the doors. Another tradition holds that the house is a converted garage.¹ The presence of a basement and early 20th century finishes seem to discount this claim.

Note: an inspection of the basement revealed the presence of several large cut nails. These are not structural in purpose, but partially nailed into joists, and apparently used to hang objects. Wire nails were used for construction purposes.

History and Significance

While lacking individual distinction, the Harten House is representative of the small, one-story frame worker's cottages built on Solomons Island in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Watermen, mariners, and employees of the local oyster houses principally occupied these small bungalow, Cape Cod-style, and vernacular dwellings. A significant number of these houses survive and are concentrated in the Avondale National Register Historic District. The Harten House is located at the Island's southern tip and is not within the Historic District.

The Harten House occupies Lot 2 of a subdivision laid out in 1870 by Thomas Grover on behalf of Isaac Solomon, for whom the Island is named.² Solomon purchased the 80-acre island in 1865 and in 1867 opened a state-of-the art oyster cannery. Solomon subdivided land near the oyster house into lots that he leased or sold to his factory workers, local watermen, and other maritime workers. The houses were privately built, many with financial assistance provided by the Alpha Building Association of Solomons.

Frederick Lankford probably constructed the Harten House in the 1920's. Lankford, a mariner and later boat captain for Standard Oil, owned the property from 1919 to until his death in 1933.³ The house derives its name from its later association with Walter Harten, who purchased the house after World War II. Walter Harten worked as an "oyster skimmer" at the Lore Oyster House. In 1987, Harten's heirs sold the property to the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. The property is now slated for demolition.

¹ Oral History taken by Richard Dodds, Calvert Maritime Museum, from Charles Elliott. Elliott was 93 at the time of the 2000 interview

² Ibid

³ Personal communication with Robert Hurry, Calvert County Maritime Museum; Land Records of Calvert County Liber AAH2, folio 533

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Continuation Sheet No. 2

CT-1010

An exact construction date remains unknown. The house post-dates the now-demolished Sunset Inn (CT-1009). Built in 1919, the Inn's inaugural promotions advertised an "uninterrupted view" of the Patuxent River. The Harten House, however, stands immediately east of the Inn site, between the Inn and the Patuxent. Assuming the Sunset Inn was honest in its marketing, the Harten House was built after 1919.⁴

A 1920's construction date is also consistent with the Harten House's architectural fabric. While the builder is unknown, the size, plan, form, and details, including 2/2 windows and exposed rafter ends, are similar to several cottages advertised in Gordon Van Tine's 1923 catalogue.⁵ The house may date to as late as the 1930s. Alexander Oberly purchased the property for \$3,500 in 1933 following the death of Frederick Lankford. Oberly's purchase price represents only a \$400 increase over what Lankford paid in 1919. This is a relatively small increase for an improved property, but this fact may reflect a depressed real estate market associated with the Great Depression. While a \$400 increase is not very much, \$3,500 in 1933 was a great deal for an unimproved 4,500 square foot lot in a working-class neighborhood. The 2/2 and lance gable windows also suggest an earlier, rather than later, construction date.

In 1987, the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CT-1005) purchased the Harten House. CBL was established in 1925 as a scientific marine research facility in Maryland, and is the first, permanent, state-supported marine biological laboratory on the East Coast. CBL buildings dominate the former mixed residential/commercial neighborhood surrounding the Harten House. The Harten House stands in the middle of the CBL campus, between a large brick laboratory building constructed in the 1930s and a parking lot.

With respect to significance, the Harten House achieves significance under Criterion A (Events), specifically for its development of the maritime community of Solomons Island. The harvesting and processing of seafood served as the Island's principal industry from shortly after the Civil War until after World War II, when seafood harvest declined precipitously. While modern construction is on the rise, much of the Island's building stock, including the Harten House, is pre-World War II.

The Harten House is also significant under National Register Criterion C (Architecture) as a representative of the simple frame maritime worker's dwellings typical of Solomons Island. A 1986 survey of Island architecture conducted by Camille Wells found few buildings individually significant or architecturally distinctive, but concluded that as an ensemble they comprised a relatively intact collection of working class houses not seen elsewhere in the unincorporated towns of Calvert County.⁶ As a result of a more intensive survey, the Solomons Island neighborhood of Avondale was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, but its boundaries do not include the neighborhoods surrounding Harten House.

⁴ Ralph Eshelman, "Historical Tours through Southern Maryland: Solomons by Foot, Bicycle, or Boat," Southern Maryland Today, 1983 (p. 24)

⁵ One-hundred-and-seventeen House Designs of the Twenties, originally published by Gordon Van-Tine Co, 1923. Reprinted by Dover Publications, New York, 1992 (pp.110-111)

⁶ Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation for Calvert County, Maryland. Prepared for The Calvert County Historic District Commission, by Dames & Moore, July 1995.

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Continuation Sheet No. 3

CT-1010

The Harten House lacks the sufficient significance and architectural merit to warrant individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Issues of diminished integrity are compounded by a lack of individual distinction. The house is surrounded by CBL buildings, with which it is not historically affiliated. Demolition and alteration of former residential and commercial structures, caused by the expansion of the CBL campus as well as the construction of new homes by private landowners, has changed the neighborhood, leaving the Harten House isolated, with diminished integrity of setting, feeling and association. The Harten House does retain sufficient integrity of location, design, workmanship, or materials, and in a more cohesive neighborhood would certainly be a contributing resource to a potential National Register Historic District.

CBL plans to demolish the Harten House to provide more parking area. A structural engineer found the building to have significant termite damage and some lesser issues, including mold. The engineer concluded that repairs were "possible but not advisable."

Prepared by: Sherri M. Marsh

Date Prepared: May 11, 2004

CT-1010, Harten House
Historic Aerial Photographs
Southern end of Solomon's Island



1923

CT-1010, Harten House
Historic Aerial Photographs
Southern end of Solomon's Island



1933

CT-1010, Harten House
Historic Aerial Photographs
Southern end of Solomon's Island



1945

CT-1010, Harten House
Historic Aerial Photographs
Southern end of Solomon's Island



1945



CT-1010

Harten House

Calvert County, Maryland

Julia Custer, Archer Inc.

May 11, 2004

MD SHPO

View of front (north) and
east elevations of house facing
southwest

1/6



CT-1010
Harten House
Calvert County, Maryland
Julia Custer, Archer Inc.
May 11, 2004
MD SHPO

View of rear (south) and west
elevations of house facing
northeast

2/6



CT-1010

Harten House

Calvert County, Maryland

Julia Custer, Archer Inc.

May 11, 2004

MD SHPO

Interior of CT-1010 facing
south down center hall from
front entrance

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CT-1010

Harten House

Calvert County, MD

Julia Custer, Archer Inc

May 11, 2004

MD SHPO

View of exterior window
detail

5/6



CT-1010
Harten House
Calvert County, Maryland
Julia Custer, Archer Inc.
May 11, 2004
MD SHPO

View of interior door detail, Kitchen
6/6

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Harten House

2. Location

street & number Williams Street ___ not for publication

city, town Solomons ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <u>X</u> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	___ no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Linda Harten

street & number 1530 Stoneleigh Court telephone no.:

city, town Hutningtown, state and zip code MD 20688

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1010

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This one-story framed and weatherboarded gable-fronted bungalow faces northeast onto the quadrangle of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CT-1005). It is a three-bay-long structure with a three-bay facade composed of a central doorway and flanking windows. There is one interior brick chimney. The facade is sheltered by a screened-in hipped-roof porch. Windows are glazed with two-over-two double-hung sash. This house dates to the early twentieth century.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1010

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Directed historical research would more firmly establish the historical significance of this site.



CT-1010 (p.69)

SOLOMONS
CALVERT COUNTY MAPS #44, 46
ENLARGEMENT 2 OF 2



Harten House, CT-1010

Solomons

Calvert County, Maryland

Camille Wells

9/86

MHT

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